



Veterans Hall of Fame Induction

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, October 29, 2010

Shrine Auditorium

For as long as there has been a United States, there have been American veterans.

Today, more than twenty million Americans have that distinction – with each one sharing a common memory of taking the oath, putting on the uniform, and becoming part of the greatest fighting forces the world has ever known.

There is another common theme that binds you veterans together – the theme of service.

Wherever duty found you – whether here at home or somewhere in a foreign land -- you had no control over where fate placed you, whether it was in the front lines of Normandy or on a ship in the Pacific.

You went where you were ordered to go and where you were most needed.

We take great pride in those already in the Hall of Fame and those who are about to enter it who have honorably served their country -- and have continued to serve and inspire our nation with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

It is difficult to single out any of these heroes, but, if you will allow me just a moment to mention one in particular:

His Naval honors include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He risked his life many times for his country – and then he gave five and a half years of that life to the North Vietnamese – while beaten, tortured and held in solitary confinement.

Eventually freed, he came home to heal – and to serve his country in countless ways once again.

John McCain knows what freedom is.

He fought for it, was deprived of it, and now fights on so that as Americans we never lose it -- to anyone or any country.

John, it is an honor to welcome you – and 19 other patriots -- into the Hall of fame.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are our OWN heroes.

We will certainly share them with others – and we have. But, let there be no mistake.

They belong to Arizona, they are ours.

We have been blessed by their service and courage and sacrifice, and we cherish these new names in the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

And, so, I am honored to read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Unified Arizona Veterans, as a committee with representation open to all veterans organizations throughout the State of Arizona, join with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Office of the Governor of Arizona to recognize men and women from all military eras, all branches of service, and all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the first induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame was done in a special ceremony on May 30, 2001, in Phoenix, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 class of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame is now being inducted in a special ceremony on October 29, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, these Arizonans have been selected for induction as veterans who honorably served their country through military service; who have continued to support their communities, state, and nation; and who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with extraordinary deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, on this day, we shall pay tribute to these exceptional individuals by inducting them into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame with special speakers, presentations, displays, and festivities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim October 29, 2010 as

* ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME DAY *

God bless you, God bless all of our veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.